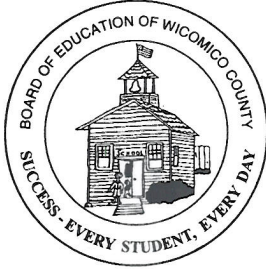


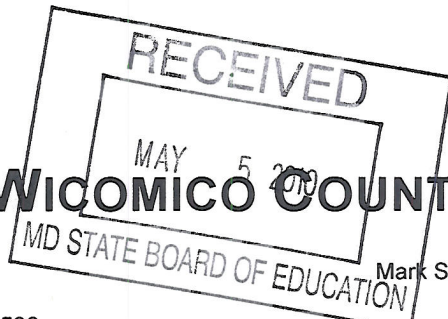
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF WICOMICO COUNTY



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April 29, 2010

RE: Support for Wicomico County Executive Request for MOE Waiver

Dear Dr. Grasmick and Maryland State Board of Education Members:

This letter is on behalf of the Wicomico County Board of Education in support of the Wicomico County Executive's request for a waiver from Maintenance of Effort requirements for the 2010-11 fiscal year in the maximum amount of \$7,400,000. We are well aware of the Maintenance of Effort law and support it and the financial support it provides to Maryland students and their schools. We are also aware that the failure to fund maintenance of effort as required by the education article, when no waiver has been granted, results in a severe financial penalty.

However, we believe that Wicomico County is in a truly unique situation, facing devastating financial, personal, and community impacts. It is our view that this extraordinary situation is worthy of positive action for a waiver to assist our school system in securing available state funding to support us in helping every one of our students succeed to the greatest degree possible. While the Board and I support the County Executive's request for this waiver, the loss of these funds will mean that the school system will face some of the most challenging sets of student needs in the State of Maryland (Special Education, poverty, and at-risk students) supported by lower than average local funding streams.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

John E. Fredericksen, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools